

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a holding portion holding obtained image data;
 - an image-related information producing portion producing image-related information related to the said image data, the said image-related information including attribute information of said a thumbnail image corresponding to the image data;
 - an operation accepting portion accepting designation of a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the said image-related information to be sent;
 - a sending portion automatically sending the said image-related information to an external device at the said designated destination in response to the user input on the operation portion;
 - a receiving portion receiving output form instruction information from the said external device, the output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of the said image data, and determined based on the and being specified by said image-related information; and
 - an image forming portion forming image data for output from the said image data held by the said holding portion based on the received said output form instruction information.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said the receiving portion receives, as an output form, said the output form instruction information instructing either print output of said the image data or sending output of said the image data to another device.
4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said the image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a document group,
said the image-related information producing portion produces said the image-related information for each of said the documents, and

said the receiving portion receives said the output form instruction information instructing an output form of each of said the documents.

5. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a holding portion holding obtained image data;

a thumbnail image producing portion producing a first thumbnail image corresponding to the image data;

an operation portion accepting a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the first thumbnail an abbreviated image to be prepared from said image data;

a sending portion automatically sending the produced first thumbnail image to the designated external device in response to the user input on the operation portion; and

a receiving portion receiving a setting from the external device, the said setting being related to a thumbnail said abbreviated image, wherein[();]

when the receiving portion receives the setting, the thumbnail an abbreviated image producing portion produces a second thumbnail producing said abbreviated image corresponding to the by using at least a part of said image data based on the said received setting; and

the [[a]] sending portion sends the sending said produced a second thumbnail abbreviated image to the designated said external device.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said the receiving portion receives said the setting designating at least one of a resolution of said the thumbnail abbreviated image, a color of said the abbreviated image, a data format of said the thumbnail abbreviated image and a region of said the image data to be used for producing said the thumbnail abbreviated image.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein
said the setting received by said the receiving portion from said the external device
designates at least one of change of said the thumbnail abbreviated image and resending of said the
thumbnail abbreviated image.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming
apparatus;

an image-related information producing step of producing image-related information related
to the said image data in the said image forming apparatus, the said image-related information
including a thumbnail image corresponding to the attribute information of said image data;

an accepting a designating step of accepting a user input via an operation portion of the
designating to said image forming apparatus, the user input designating an image managing
apparatus as a sending destination of the said image-related information to be sent;

an image-related information sending step of automatically sending the said image-related
information to [[an]] the designated image managing apparatus at the designated destination from
the said image forming apparatus in response to the user input on the operation portion;

an image-related information displaying step of displaying, in the said image managing
apparatus, the image-related information received from the said image forming apparatus;

an output form instruction information producing step of producing, in the said image
managing apparatus, output form instruction information, the output form instruction information
including an instruction relating to an output form of the said image data, determined based on the
and being specified by said image-related information;

an output form instruction information sending step of sending the said produced output
form instruction information from the said image managing apparatus to the said image forming
apparatus; and

an image forming step of forming image data for output from the said image data stored in the said storage device based on the said output form instruction information received from the image managing apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

an accepting step of accepting a user input via an operation portion of the image forming apparatus, the user input designating an image managing apparatus as a sending destination of a thumbnail an abbreviated image to be produced from the said image data on the image forming apparatus;

a setting step of effecting a setting related to the thumbnail abbreviated image to be produced by the image managing apparatus;

a transmitting step of transmitting the said setting from the said image managing apparatus to the said image forming apparatus;

a thumbnail an abbreviated image producing step of producing, in the said image forming apparatus, the thumbnail said abbreviated image corresponding to the by using at least a part of said image data based on the said transmitted setting; and

a sending step of automatically sending the thumbnail said abbreviated image from the said image forming apparatus to the said image managing apparatus in response to the user input.

10. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:

a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

an accepting step of accepting a user input via an operation portion of the image forming apparatus, the user input designating an image managing apparatus as a sending destination of a

thumbnail an abbreviated image to be produced corresponding to the from said image data on the image forming apparatus;

a first thumbnail abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing a first thumbnail abbreviated image corresponding to the by using at least a part of said image data, and sending the said first thumbnail abbreviated image from the said image forming apparatus to the image managing apparatus in response to the user input on the operation portion;

an instructing step of sending an instruction related to the said first thumbnail abbreviated image from the said image managing apparatus to the said image forming apparatus; and

a second thumbnail abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing, in the said image forming apparatus, a second thumbnail abbreviated image to be substituted for the said first thumbnail abbreviated image corresponding to the by using at least a part of said image data based on the said instruction, and sending the said second thumbnail abbreviated image.

11. (Currently Amended) An image managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving portion receiving image-related information related to image data from an image forming apparatus, the said image-related information including a thumbnail image corresponding to the attribute information of said image data;

a display portion displaying the said image-related information;

an output form instruction information producing portion producing output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of the said image data held in the said image forming apparatus, the output form determined based on the received image-related information; and

a sending portion sending the said output form instruction information to the image forming apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said image related information includes an abbreviated image prepared from at least a part
of the image data;

said display portion displays at least said abbreviated image, and

said the image managing apparatus further comprises an accepting portion accepting an
instruction operation using said the thumbnail abbreviated image and performed by a user for an
output form.

13. (Currently Amended) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said the output form instruction information producing portion produces, as said the output
form, the output form instruction information instructing either print output of said the image data
or sending output of said the image data to another device.

14. (Currently Amended) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said the image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a document group,
said the image-related information received from said the image forming apparatus includes
the image-related information for each of said the documents, and

said the output form instruction information producing portion produces said the output form
instruction information instructing an output form of each of said the documents.

15. (Currently Amended) An image managing apparatus comprising:
a receiving portion receiving a first thumbnail an abbreviated image corresponding to
produced by using at least a part of image data from an image forming apparatus, the image data
held in the image forming apparatus; and

a sending portion sending instruction information providing an instruction related to
reproduction of a thumbnail an abbreviated image concerning the first thumbnail said abbreviated
image to the said image forming apparatus, wherein

the said receiving portion receiving a second thumbnail again an abbreviated image reproduced at the image forming apparatus in compliance with the instruction information sent from the image managing apparatus to the image forming apparatus;

the said sending portion sending output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output from the of said image data held in the said image forming apparatus.

16. (Currently Amended) The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said the instruction related to the abbreviated image instructs at least one of change of said the abbreviated image and resending of said the abbreviated image.

17. (Currently Amended) The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said the instruction related to the thumbnail abbreviated image instructs at least one of a resolution of said the thumbnail abbreviated image, a color of said the thumbnail abbreviated image, a data format of said the thumbnail abbreviated image and a region of said the image data to be used for producing said the thumbnail abbreviated image.

18. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image-related information comprises color information of the image data.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the operation portion comprises a user interface provided on the image forming apparatus that accepts the user input designating the external device.

20. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data is obtained by scanning.

21. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the image data is obtained by scanning.

22. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the image data is obtained by scanning.

23. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the image data is obtained by scanning.

24. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the image data is obtained by scanning.